

except under the microscope, are as complicated in form as that of the nautilus, and are adorned with elaborate markings that must be unseen in the darkness of the ocean floor. These minute organisms not only decorate themselves at the cost of their environment, but effect marvellous changes in it: they die, but their shells remain, and, accumulated in the course of ages, form deposits of immense thickness which, subsequently raised above sea-level, contribute largely to the dry crust of the earth. The chalk of English downs is constituted in the main of these tiny shell-cases. Corals support themselves upon a stony framework which they build up from materials that are dissolved in the sea: their labours also have the effect of extending the earth's land surface. Higher up the scale, the complicated nests of insects and birds illustrate very strikingly the action of a constructive instinct. To these activities the reproductive impulse contributes: their architectural skill is directed to the needs of their young. But there are cases, such as that of the bower-bird, in which materials are gathered and fashioned from the pure love of fashioning, from an impulse akin to that which prompts man to lay out a pleasure garden. Amongst mammals the provident instinct is singularly ineffective until we reach man. In him it is very strongly developed, and is one of the peculiarities which has enabled

him so
greatly to outstrip all other animals.
In its
simplest form it is the impulse to
appropriate
that is illustrated by the thievish
propensities
of a magpie. But when
strengthened by a
desire for comfort. or the thousand
other am-
bitions of humanity, it will not only
compel
man to labour industriously ; it is a
powerful
incentive to discovery and invention.